

Message Text

MRN: 1973LONDON004626 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX

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ADP000

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

GAC-01 OMB-01 IO-12 AID-20 DPW-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /140 W

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R 181737 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0636

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 04626

MENTS RECOGNIZE, THE EUROPEAN BLOC INCLUDING THE UK MIGHT HAVE SOME LEVERAGE WITH HANOI. IN ADDITION, IF THE UK BECOMES TOO MUCH OUT OF STEP WITH HER EC PARTNERS SHE WILL LOSE MUCH OF HER ABILITY TO INFLUENCE THEIR ATTITUDES ON INDOCHINA. THIS WOULD NOT BE IN INTEREST OF EITHER BRITAIN OR SOUTH VIETNAM.

10. HEATH ASKED ABOUT THE PRISONER ISSUE, WHICH IS SOMETIMES TROUBLESOME IN BRITAIN. THIEU GAVE FOLLOWING FIGURES: GVN HAS RELEASED 26,000 POW'S; COMMUNISTS HAVE RETURNED 5,000 OUT OF 31,000 GVN BELIEVES STILL ALIVE. PROPAGANDA ABOUT 200,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS IS NONSENSE; GVN HOLDS 5,08 L " CIVILIAN DETAINEES", ALL OF THEM GUILTY OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES. THEIU SAID HE READY TO EXCHANGE THE LOT AT ANY TIME. COMMUNISTS HOLD 16,000 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ABOUT 50,000 OTHER CIVILIANS; THEY HAVE GIVEN GVN NAMES OF ONLY 400. (SQUIRE SAID HEATH HAS QUESTION PRISONERS COMING IN HOUSE OF COMMONS; AFTER TALKING WITH THIEU HE IS ANXIOUS TO SPEAK OUT STRONGLY ON SUBJECT).

11. ON AID, THIEU SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE A CONFERENCE FOR MULTILATERAL HELP. HE THOUGHT FRENCH WOULD PARTICIPATE(NOT NECESSARILY IN THE CONFERENCE)

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BUT HAD NOT GOT COMMITRT TO AVOID PUBLI-
CITY, GVN EMBASSY HAD DONE BEST TO ATTRACT ATTENTION
TO VISIT, AND HAD KEPT PRESS INFORMED. FACT THAT VISIT
NEVERTHELESS WENT VIRTUALLY UNNOTICED SQUIRE SEES AS
CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF MUCH- LOWERED LEVEL OF PUBLIC
INTEREST.

4. ON POLITICAL SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM, THIEU
EXPRESSED HIGH CONFIDENCE. HE HAD NO FEARS ABOUT
OUTCOME OF ANY ELECTION, ESTIMATED THAT COMMUNISTS
COULD NOT EXCEED MAXIMUM OF 5 PERCENT OF VOTE. HE
ATTRIBUTED LACK OF PROGRESS AT ST. CLOUD TO PRG' S
DISTASTE FOR ANY POLITICAL TEST IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.
HEATH AND HOME URGED THIEU TO CAPITALIZE UPON THIS
FACT BY MAKING PUBLIC AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY GVN' S
WILLINGNESS TO HAVE GENUINE POLITICAL CONTEST.

5. THIEU SAID HE THOUGHT HANOI WOULD NEED AT LEAST
SIX MONTHS TO BRING ITS FORCE IN SOUTH TO 80 PERCENT
OF THE LEVEL AT THE BEGINNING OF LAST APRIL, A LEVEL
HE CONSIDERED THE MINIMUM REQUIRED FOR ANY REAL SUCCESS
IN A MAJOR OFFENSIVE. THIEU SEEMED GENUINELY CONCERNED
ABOUT SOVIET ROLE IN RE- SUPPLYING NORTH VIETNAM, SAID
" KEY TO PROBLEM LIES WITH RUSSIA". HE WAS LESS W
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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